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E. B. MURRAY & CO.,
and

We print below the report of the special committee appointed last spring to examine into the management of convict labor by other States, and to suggest reforms in this respect:

The special committee appointed during our last session to communicate with the officials of the different States of the Union in reference to the management of convict labor, has had to examine and they did communicate with every State in the Union, the most, if not all of whom, responded to our request for information on this subject. From the numerous reports received we could, and have, compiled a large amount of information that I'd be interesting to the House, and in a practical point of view, from the great diversity of plans and opinions, it would be too voluminous and perhaps unsatisfactory in reference to the cost of their respective penitentiaries, but in this particular they were all in agreement, to wit: that they make very large annual appropriations, some make small and others pay into their treasuries various amounts of money realized from their convict labor.

After an examination of the whole subject we have concluded, to the conclusion that the condition of our neighboring State, Georgia, is more like that of our own State in climate, population, wants and necessities than any other State, and that those in managing her convict labor do with more care to the profit of the State and would respectfully refer the General Assembly to the system of management in that State and recommends its adoption.

tion. About three and a half years since they entered into a contract with some respectable companies, to take charge of all their convict labor for a term of ten years, the company to pay the State for each convict \$11 per annum. The company pays all expenses, including guards, &c. They have at this time between 1,100 and 1,200 convicts in the hands of the different companies, who keep them employed at various branches of labor—some on farms, on railroads, making brick, working in coal mines, &c. Their Legislature has been pleased with this plan of working them, and recently entered into a contract with three different companies to take charge of all the convict labor for twenty years, for which they are to pay the State \$25,000 annually. The contractors pay all expenses from the time of conviction until released by

the authority of the State. This contract regulates the number of hours they are required to work, including all the details that may be necessary to provide for their comfort, protection and safe keeping. The State furnishes one general superintendent, one physician and one chaplain, whose duty it is to look after their various wants. There is not a single convict within the walls of the Georgia penitentiary. The contractors take

all classes of convicts, including the vicious and invalid. Ex-Governor Brown, who is one of the most successful business men of this country, and one who has had more practical experience in the management of convict labor, on a big scale, than almost any man South, was one of the first contractors for this labor. His first contract expires in April, 1879. He, with two other companies, have contracted with the State of Georgia to take

Gov. Brown's argument and experience is, that the convicts of this section of the South, if worked within the walls of the penitentiary, will do their work so badly and "spoil so much material that the result will be in every instance in practice,

that they will involve the State in a heavy annual expense." He also takes ground against the policy of educating this bad population in the different mechanical pursuits, as a hardship against the honest mechanics, both of the white and black race. He also says under this system "they will be as healthy and as cheerful as under the close confinement system—indeed, my observation has been that they are more so."

When we remember our financial embarrassment and the large amounts that have been appropriated from year to year, and the amount *now* asked for to support this institution, we think it would be good judgment to profit by the experience of our sister State—Georgia—and lease this labor to some responsible person or company for at least one year, not more than *five* years, under such rules and regulations as may be thought

and regulations as they be thought prudent and safe. We would also respectfully suggest that no person of company should be allowed to contract for this labor who will not take at least twenty-five convicts, and at the same time require them to give a suitable bond for their faithful observance of the contract.

Our argument for this suggestion is, it would be necessary for the convicts to have strong, comfortable and commodi-

our barracks or stockades for their comfort and protection, including a liberal supply of *reliable* guards, that no person hiring less than this number would find it convenient to furnish; besides, it would limit the number of contractors which would make it more convenient and practicable for the State officers to look after their various wants and necessities.

nications with persons interested in the phosphate works on the seaboard of our State, I am convinced we will find no difficulty in making contracts with them that will be satisfactory to the State; at the same time, we think it would be advisable to favor as much as possible, all individuals or companies, working this labor on railroads, canals or any other public work in which the State has a pecuniary interest. In addition, the

general interest. In addition to the above, we think this system of labor will do more to accomplish the real objects of the law than to continue our present system of working them. We would further suggest that this report be referred to the Committee on the Penitentiary, who, by the assistance of the Attorney General, be instructed to make such a report as they may think prudent under the circumstances.

The special committee, in closing this report, ask the appointment of a committee of four members of this House to meet a like committee of the Senate, whose duty it shall be to inquire into and report a scheme for the election by the Legislature of five directors of the penitentiary, in accordance with the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor.

H. A. SHAW,
Chairman Committee.

— The young king of Spain seems to be a fellow of spirit. When he told his ministers that he wished to marry the Princess Mercedes of Montpensier, they objected, saying that the duke of Montpensier was so very unpopular. "What has that to do with it?" replied the youthful sovereign; "I mean to marry the duke's daughter, not the duke," and

to be carried his point and obstacle being removed, there yet remains the formality of asking the papal dispensation necessary for marriage with a relative, and shortly it is to be presumed this pretty romance of the Spanish king and his pretty cousin will terminate in truly blimful fashion.